

AS TO OUR LANDS

LAWS IN RELATION THERETO IN NEED OF REVISION.

SO SAYS THE COMMISSIONER

The Present Statutes Were Enacted to Meet Conditions Which Have Passed Away—Question of How Best to Take Care of the Grazing Lands.

WASHINGTON—"The land laws of the United States need revision," said Commissioner Richards of the general land office today. "Many of the laws on our statute books are made for conditions which existed twenty years ago, and quarter sections of land upon which homesteaders are permitted to file must give way to larger areas of land because the best lands are occupied. The forestry laws and timber and stone laws also need revision, and the commission appointed by the president, consisting of Mr. Pinchot, head of the forestry division of the agricultural department; Mr. Newall, chief hydrographer of the geological survey, and myself, expect to make a report to congress based on an investigation and data now at hand. And yet all three of us find it hard to give this subject the attention it really deserves because of the duties of our several positions, which take up all our time."

Upon the subject of the opening of the Rosebud in Gregory county, South Dakota, Mr. Richards stated that about half the lands had been taken under the drawing at \$4 per acre. On November 8, three months after the time at which the drawing occurred, the books will be closed for those entering on homesteads. After November 8 the land remaining may be taken at \$3 per acre, that period extending for three months, or until February 8 of next year. After that date all lands remaining undisposed of may be filed upon at \$2.50 per acre for a period of four years. Upon the termination of that period the president is permitted to dispose of the remainder by sale under the rules and regulations of the secretary of the interior.

"A most excellent class of people entered Rosebud country during the opening of the reservation and drawing for locations," continued Mr. Richards. "Many of them were people of fair means, otherwise they would not have been able to comply with the terms laid down. These people will be a great addition to the South Dakota population, and cannot help but be good citizens. We have found many cases where people, after once looking at the land, decided to go elsewhere, and there are cases where persons drawing low numbers have failed to take advantage of their opportunity to settle upon much valuable land. Of course, this number was small, but it showed that the time between the intention of filing and the time in which to put up the money weeded out many irresponsible persons and resulted in an exceedingly better class of settlers.

"One of the greatest problems which confronts the interior department is the question of how best to take care of the grazing lands of the country. Sometimes I think that if we could lease these lands to cattle and sheep men surrounded with every safeguard for the government, that it would be a most excellent way of getting out of existing conditions. As civilization pushes onward the great public domain is absorbed and broad acres of untilled soil grow smaller every year. The cattlemen and sheepmen, realizing this, drove their herds far afield, and if the government could obtain lease money from these cattle and sheepmen it would not only give them protection, but be adding to the treasury."

Treaty Peace Signed.

SANTIAGO DE CHILI—A treaty of peace between Chili and Bolivia was signed Monday.

JOY OF RUSSIANS.

Jubilant at St. Petersburg Over War News.

ST. PETERSBURG—There is jubilation throughout the city over the news that General Kuropatkin has resumed the offensive, and the holiday, which began with little heart, closed brighter. The crowds in the streets and the illuminations in honor of the czarvitch's name day gave a tinge of brilliancy to an evening otherwise depressing, through a constant drizzle of rain. Newsboys up to midnight raced through the thoroughfares with evening extras, shouting "Great Russian Victory," and crowds bought the papers. Groups of men in brilliant uniforms, or in evening dress at the hotels and restaurants discussed the change in the fortunes of war; but the population as a whole were slow to take fire. They received the news of the earlier reverses stolidly and now accepted reports of Russian successes and the capture of guns quietly with satisfaction, but with considerable reserve.

Correspondents at the front the past forty-eight hours had been hinting that the Russian army was on the eve of another advance; but it was thought here that the troops were too exhausted by more than a week of titanic struggle to engage in an immediate advance movement. Therefore, the news of the definite resumption of the advance was calculated to arouse the greater satisfaction, but the realization of the significance of news permeates the masses here more slowly than in American cities. The kaleidoscopic changes on the Shakhe have been too swift for the populace to follow, and so the better news from the front has been so far taken with comparative quiet. In the best informed circles, however, it is already accepted as true. It is believed that General Kuropatkin intended to signalize the czarvitch's fete by a victory just as the grand duke, Nicholas, did at Plevna.

The failure of the war office to give out dispatches is attributed to the holiday, the censors commission disbanding early. The Associated Press, however, hears on good authority that the emperor has received a telegram from General Kuropatkin reporting that the Russians are moving forward. The reverse sustained by General Yamada's column has not been reported by General Kuropatkin or General Sakharoff, except in references to an unsuccessful attack near Shakhe.

The Associated Press dispatch evidently refers to this affair in reporting that the Japanese left had been beaten off with terrible slaughter and its retreat cut off by a Russian army corps. Another Associated Press dispatch from Mukden confirms the news of the Russian advance. When telegraphing late tonight the correspondent says: "It is rumored that we are moving ahead."

There is no official confirmation here of the report from Tokio that a Russian attack on the Japanese right on October 17 had been repulsed. If this report should prove true it may involve serious consequences for the Russians who crossed the Shakhe while the river was fordable.

WAR WILL BE PROSECUTED.

All Offers of Peace Would Be Rejected by Russia.

WASHINGTON—Count Cassini, the Russian ambassador, in a conversation with a correspondent of the Associated Press, reiterated with great emphasis what he has had occasion to say several times regarding intervention by the powers to conclude the war:

"There is," he said, "absolutely no opportunity for intervention to stop the war. Russia proposes to prosecute the war to the end and all offers of peace at this time must be rejected."

The chronic borrower is usually out on a strike.

NEWS IN NEBRASKA

ESTIMATE OF NORMAL EXPENSES

State Board of Education Prepares Figures for Legislature.

KEARNEY—The State Board of Education met in this city. The principal business transacted was the preparation of the estimate for the Peru Normal school. It is as follows:

GENERAL EXPENSES.
Salaries \$71,400
Fuel and light 8,000
Printing and office supplies 1,000
Apparatus and laboratory supplies 1,500
Postage, telegraph, telephone, freight and express 900
Furniture and cases 800
Repairs 800
Repairs and improvements 5,000
Commencement expenses and incidentals 800

Total of general expenses \$18,100

EQUIPMENT.
Laboratory blackboard \$ 5,000
Addition to heating plant (boilers, tunnel and fixtures) 2,500
Pumping station 2,500

Total for equipment \$60,000
Total for the Peru school \$99,500

The estimate for the Kearney school is as follows:

Salaries \$47,500
Heating plant 15,000
Furniture, blackboard and laboratory supplies 6,000
Fuel, lights and water 6,000
Improvements of grounds, water and sewer connections 5,000
Postage, telegraph, telephone, freight and express 900
Printing and office supplies 1,500
Commencement expenses and incidentals 800

Total for the Kearney school \$82,700

George A. Bertlinghof, architect of the Kearney Normal building, submitted his report, in which he says, among other things, that he has recently examined the building and fully approves of the substantial character of the material used in it to date.

RUSHING FOR THE ROSEBUD.

Preparing to Prove Up on Claims That They Drew.

NORFOLK—Another influx of people toward the Rosebud reservation has begun. It is not a repetition of the rush which took place last summer, but the trains between Norfolk and Bonesteel are just about as long. It is a soberer lot of settlers, however, moving in. This time they are people in earnest, who are going to the Rosebud not as a gambling lark, but for seriously settling and proving upon the claims which they drew from Uncle Sam.

Owing to the fact that the moving on, according to law, will come in the dead of a Dakota winter, those persons who drew are making every possible preparation ahead of time, in order that when the times comes for living there they will have comfortable quarters to occupy. Houses are sprouting up all over the country.

The land office at Chamberlain is said to be doing a rushing business just now, too, owing to the fact that relinquishments have become possible under the sixty-day limit. Many are transferring their claims, the average price being \$400 to \$500.

Find Floater Near Nemaha.

NEMAHA.—A floater was found in the Missouri river about four miles north of Nemaha Thursday by William Gillespie. The body had evidently been in the river several months. In its trousers pockets were found a bunch of keys, a pocket knife, a rule and a nail set, such as carpenters use. The body was boxed and taken to Brownville.

Must Answer in Court.

OSMOND—Paul Klawitter, a farmer of this place and formerly from Wisner, was arrested on a charge of assault, committed upon the person of a 14-year-old girl by the name of Blackwell. He was bound over for trial.

THE STATE AT LARGE.

Prohibitionists of Polk county have put a ticket in the field.

Jacob Bodner, an old resident of Platte county, was found dead in a chair.

Mike J. McCarty was attacked by a stallion at his home at Unadilla and fatally injured.

A car loaded with cinders in the Union Pacific yards at Columbus caught fire and before water could be turned upon it was destroyed.

A new German Lutheran church at Telbasta was formally dedicated last Sunday. Bishop Bowman of Omaha was in charge of the exercises.

Frank Sedlitzky a farm hand who has been working at Lavitt, was held up and robbed of \$7 while walking home from Fremont a few nights ago.

An artesian spring has recently been discovered on the Mousel ranch seven miles northwest of Cambridge, which is a wonder of unusual interest to that country.

Laying of the corner stone of the new government building at Hastings took place under the auspices of the Masons. Hon. W. E. Andrews of Washington delivered the address.

F. U. Dyers, an employe of the Keaton restaurant, Fremont, was robbed of \$18 at Mrs. West's Albany house by a strange boy whom he befriended in offering shelter for the night.

Dr. S. R. Towne, state expert on contagious diseases, accompanied by Dr. Gabbols of Humphrey, are investigating the epidemic of scarlet fever at St. Bernard, a small place nine miles northwest of Humphrey.

At Columbus the little 2-year-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. William Dietrich was found face downward in a tub of water. The child was apparently dead and the face was turned a blue black but after some hard work by the physicians it was resuscitated.

Enos Perkins, the farmer living eighteen miles north of Cambridge, who was arrested on a counterfeiting charge, January 11, by the United States marshal, is unable to appear in court on account of an injury caused by a stroke of lightning recently received.

C. L. Hummell, cashier of the Humboldt National bank, caused the arrest of William Perkins, a young colored man quite well known in police circles of that section, on the charge of uttering a forged endorsement on a check of small denomination, which was cashed by the bank.

F. Birkner, about 70 years old, was struck by the engine of passenger train No. 16, and instantly killed. He was walking on the track two miles west of Red Cloud when the accident happened. He was very deaf, to which is attributed his failure to hear the approach of the train.

Jesse Young, who was tried some time ago for shooting and killing James Boits last spring was brought into court at Nebraska City and Judge Jessen gave him a sentence of thirteen years in the penitentiary. The jury found Young guilty of murder in the second degree.

Henry M. Willis of Blue Spring, who escaped from the insane asylum at Lincoln some time ago, was found wandering about northeast of Beatrice and was brought to the county jail by Deputy Sheriff Moore, for detention until he could be sent back to the asylum. He was taken to Lincoln by Sheriff Trude.

The body of Tom Fogarty, aged 45, of Fort Dodge, Ia., was found on the Union Pacific tracks under the Sixteenth street viaduct at Omaha. He was lying across one of the rails of a sidetrack, beneath a freight car. One wheel had passed over the body, cutting him in two above the hips. The name Fogarty was tattooed on the arm.